

**MINUTES OF THE  
STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2002**

California Environmental Protection Agency  
1001 I Street, Sierra Hearing Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Sacramento, California 95814

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark Ghilarducci	OES, Deputy Director
Steve Tsumura	LEPC, Region I
Jim Nelson	LEPC, Region II
Kelly Purdom	LEPC, Region III
Dennis Smith	LEPC, Region IV
Mike Dorsey	LEPC, Region VI
Denny Bungarz	County Government
Michael Tritz	Business, Transportation & Housing
David Osborne	State and Consumer Services Agency
George Deese	Department of Food and Agriculture
Don Johnson	CALEPA
Jeff Rubin	Health and Human Services Agency
Jack Geck	Resources Agency

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Phyllis Cauley	OES, Coastal Region
Len Miller	OES, Coastal Region
Jerilyn Peterson	OES, Inland Region
Roy Manning	OES, Inland Region
Sean Grady	OES, Southern Region
Mike McGroarty	OES, Fire Branch
Marty Sanford	OES, Fire Branch
Bob Gerber	OES, Law Enforcement Branch
Ben Tong	OES, Technological Hazards Section
Donna Carroll	OES, Technological Hazards Section
Tracey Vardas	OES, Hazardous Materials Unit
Shelley Anderson	OES, Hazardous Materials Unit
Deni Gray	OES, Hazardous Materials Unit
Brian Abeel	OES, Hazardous Materials Unit
Steve Smith	CA OSHA
Gerald Miller	Department of Food and Agriculture
Mike Ardito	USEPA Region 9
Dan Meer	USEPA Region 9
Tom Ridgeway	FEMA Region 9

**OTHERS PRESENT continued:**

Todd Smith	FEMA Region 9
Paul Giambroni	Bullseye Publishing
William T. Mason	Cal/CAER
Stephen Murrill	Chemical Industry Council of California
Paul Penn	Environmental Hazards Management

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Mark Ghilarducci, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and acting Chair of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. All SERC meetings are recorded for retention purposes.

Chair Ghilarducci welcomed the attendees and members, who introduced themselves and the agency or group they represented.

The focus of the meeting is counter-terrorism efforts from different jurisdictions and what role the SERC should pursue in the future on Community Right-To-Know and response in light of recent events in New York and Washington D.C.

A brief review of items from the August 2001 was provided on the following items:

Release Reporting Task Force – A revised draft of the *Release Reporting Requirement Guidance* was discussed by conference call and is under significant revision. Questions on the Release Reporting Task Force should be directed to the Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Unit at (916) 845-8747.

California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program/Phase 2 Regulations meeting will be set aside for now. A letter was released to interested parties to this effect. Questions should be referred to the Hazardous Materials Unit at (916) 845-8747.

**2. Membership – Local Government Representative-  
Mark Ghilarducci, Deputy Director, OES**

Executive Order W-40-93 called for three local government representatives to be represented on SERC. The other local governments represented include a member of the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Forum Board confirmed in March 2001 (currently Christine Boyd), and a city government representative confirmed in August 2001 (Brian Clark).

The California State Association of Counties has recommended the Commission confirm the appointment of Denny Bungarz, to represent county government. Mr. Bungarz has extensive experience in local government and served on the Willows City Council,

Mayor of Willows from 1990 to 1991, the Glenn County Board of Supervisors and other boards and commissions.

**Action:** Denny Bungarz, Glenn County Supervisor, was confirmed as the representative for county government on the SERC.

3. **Approval of Minutes – August 22, 2001**

Minutes from the August 22, 2001, SERC meeting were considered for approval by the Commission.

**Action:** A motion was made to approve the August 22, 2001, minutes as written. The motion was approved.

4. **Post 9/11 State/Federal Activities**

Chair Ghilarducci provided an overview of OES activities post 9/11. Within minutes of notification, OES was in contact with the Governor's office with the latest information and any threats or occurrences in California. OES activated the Regional and State Emergency Operations Centers in support of all state operations, local government activations, law enforcement operations, fire and rescue operations, and co-located with key federal and state agency representatives. The *State Terrorism Plan* was implemented. Coordinated information and intelligence was shared with federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as the media and general public where necessary. We immediately conducted State Threat Assessment Committee conference calls and continue efforts through the Law Enforcement Branch. Cabinet members, key federal and state agencies, operational areas, law enforcement and fire agencies were contacted for status information and were placed on the highest alert status.

All eight of California's specially trained Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Forces were placed on alert and three were dispatched that same day to assist with the search and rescue operations on the East Coast. Eventually six of California's USAR Task Forces were rotated to assist with the East Coast response effort.

Numerous other OES and state resources were deployed as well, including USAR management personnel, specialized Geographic Information System (GIS) teams and Donation Management specialists. Continuity of government measures for the Governor, State Capitol and other key individuals and facilities were implemented.

On October 10, 2001, Governor Davis issued Executive Order D-47-01, directing the State Strategic Committee On Terrorism (SSCOT) to review California's current state of preparation for counter-terrorism, as well as measures that could be undertaken quickly to improve California's posture.

Many of the measures suggested were implemented, and others are contained in the “State Strategic Committee on Terrorism Initial Recommendations to Executive Order D-47-01” (accessible on the Governor’s and OES’ website).

The assessment involved over a hundred individuals representing federal, state and local governments, as well as the private sector and community-based organizations.

Presentations provided today include: Ground Zero-OES Fire Branch, Law Enforcement Branch, hazardous materials report, and a report from USEPA.

#### Ground Zero – Assistant Chief Jim Marquis, OES Fire Branch

Assistant Chief Marquis provided an overview of lessons learned from OES staff working at Ground Zero. Some of the unique challenges of this event were that each plane was carrying 10,000 gallons of fuel; primary communication resources were located in the Twin Towers; secondary relocation sites were eliminated; the New York Fire Department had never had to rely on mutual aid and there were difficulties on how to incorporate this into their response; there was no comprehensive incident action planning; inadequate perimeter control; lines of succession were not clear, and a lack of continuity. These issues are being looked at now in after-action activities and coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Basically, we are doing things right in California due in part to mutual aid, the operational area concept, use of the incident command system, and multi-agency coordination in prioritizing objectives. Assistant Chief Marquis stressed the need to build and exercise external relationships and get out of comfort zones.

#### Law Enforcement Report – Bob Gerber, OES, Law Enforcement Branch

Mr. Gerber provided a California Terrorism Program Update (**see Exhibit 1**). This included updates of OES activities since 9/11 in relation to strategic planning and how it evolved. The State Strategic Committee on Terrorism (SSCOT), chaired by the OES Director, was established in 1997. The group was expanded in 1999 and post 9/11 includes sixteen subcommittees, the State Threat Advisory Committee (S-TAC), and the State Terrorism Working Group (STWG).

SSCOT is comprised of federal, state, and local government and the six mutual aid regions. SSCOT’S purpose is to develop and maintain a current and realistic assessment of terrorism threats in California and provide a rapid evaluation of specific threats or events. The Law Enforcement Branch Operations Center was staffed with various agencies to provide technical expertise and provide rumor control on a 24/7 basis for three months. The S-TAC is the decision-making component that assesses terrorism threats. The STWG is the component that works to improve long-term preparedness on a daily basis.

Since 9/11, the OES Law Enforcement Branch has issued six information bulletins on *Mailroom Procedures*, *Field Testing*, *First Responder Guidelines*, *Internal Planning* (COG) and *Vulnerability Assessment Planning*, which can be found at the OES website at [www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov).

Mr. Gerber stated there is the possibility that terrorists may be using websites to obtain information on nuclear power plants, dams, reservoirs, facilities, etc. From an operational security standpoint, there is a need to look at our own agencies or businesses to discern what we do with information and how to make it more difficult for potential terrorists to obtain some of the information that could prove harmful to the public.

Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Report – Tracey Vardas, OES, Hazardous Materials Unit

Ms. Vardas, HazMat Unit, reported on the SSCOT Chemical Subcommittee's recommendations related to the top priority of hazardous materials. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CALEPA) chairs this subcommittee. Efforts are being coordinated with the Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs) at the local level with response capabilities and technical assistance – what is available, prioritization of high risk facilities, development of guidance for businesses to assess their facilities to determine if they are high risk and to enhance coordination of efforts.

The subcommittee has developed recommendations for response actions that can be taken on a local level with multi-agency coordination. One goal is to provide the operating framework to work with locals in response to hazardous materials incidents when local capabilities are exhausted and help is needed from the state and/or federal government. Also, California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) is working with CALEPA on emergency response plans.

In addition to the Chemical Subcommittee, other hazardous materials projects include: Inland Area Contingency Plan, Emergency Response Initiative (operational concept on how to provide more assistance), and Plan Soup. The purpose of Plan Soup is to identify what plans are out there, whom are they coordinated with, and why and how they overlap to plan how best to integrate plans. The next step will then be for the state and federal government to work with locals to see how we fit in their structure. HazMat staff will provide training to Regional Administrators and managers on what services are available at OES Headquarters. HazMat Unit is developing evaluation questions and a risk determination guidance document for local government to help CUPAs make determinations whether facilities fall under the California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP). The guidance will also contain a terrorism aspect.

USEPA Report - Dan Meer, USEPA Region 9, Response Planning and Assessment Branch

Mr. Meer, USEPA, Region 9, reported on federal efforts and activities related to hazardous materials post 9/11 (**see Exhibit 2**), and summarized an update of current issues of interest from *U.S. EPA Update for California SERC* (**see Exhibit 3**). Also, available to answer questions were Tom Ridgeway and Todd Smith from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region 9.

Mr. Meer reported on homeland security and public safety; Superfund Division's functions; recent homeland security activities; Environmental Response Team (ERT) West; anthrax response training; US/Mexico border emergency planning; FEMA- First Responder Initiative; California Emergency Response Project (CERP); Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)-enhancing public health emergency response and public health emergency funding.

It is anticipated there will be up to 3.5 billion dollars in federal grant funding available in 2003. Federal dollars may require state grant match. There is a need to coordinate all efforts of planning and response for federal, state and local governments.

Update of current issues of interest from USEPA for California SERC included the new Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest; EPA's grant flexibility for addressing homeland security needs; the availability of new EPA publications and other recent publications of interest; an update on the Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) and the contacts for the Chemical Emergency Prevention and Preparedness (CEPP) program in California.

Public Comments/Questions:

In answer to a question from Paul Giambroni, Bullseye Publishing, Chair Ghilarducci stated there is no plan in place for specialized volunteer fire departments at this time. There are a number of initiatives underway to enhance community response teams (a database of general contractors, trade and unions to dovetail into the State Emergency Management System). Also, there is a plan underway to educate the public in general preparedness in which shelter-in-place should be a part of.

Kelley Purdom, LEPC Region III Chair, stated there should be a better tie in with LEPCs. His view is that we are reinventing the wheel in that the LEPCs have the knowledge and training. Under CEPRC (Chemical Emergency Planning and Response Commission), the predecessor to SERC, the former Training and Equipment Subcommittee was a useful tool in developing training. Another example under CEPRC was the RAPID group. Mechanisms already in place should be funded.

Ms. Vardas, OES HazMat Unit, stated that these programs that are already in place are being built upon. Tom Ridgeway, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) stated that the White House has initiated volunteer citizen coordination to support training and possibly set up new teams designed to support existing fire and law organizations.

Comments/questions and discussion included how to rate chemical plant facilities, key facilities and nuclear power plant safety; the need to utilize forums available at the local level; the importance of disseminating shelter-in-place information to the public; utilization of SERC to prioritize hazmat in relationship to field and the possibility of SERC applying for grants on behalf of LEPC regions.

Funding comments/discussion included proposed FEMA funding not approved yet – still in planning stages how to distribute state by state and account for; 75% should be distributed to local agencies; a proposal to use a baseline amount rather than solely by population – rural areas with limited resources and low population base have the same needs as larger counties; funding needed for the San Diego/Mexico border and to support on-going programs already in place, e.g. Leuger and Metropolitan Strike Force.

#### 5. **Post 9/11 Local Agency Activities**

Comments were provided by local agencies as follows:

Steve Tsumura, Chair, LEPC I, stated that a lot of good work was done in response to anthrax concerns. These were not always consistent leading to guess work. Policies and procedures and better biological analysis and indicators would aid in reducing guesswork.

Jeff Rubin, Disaster Medical Services, Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), stated that statewide chemical lab capabilities would enhance first responders' response; an overall state plan would enhance response; local hazmat teams were overwhelmed and creative planning was necessary and the need to educate the public.

Mr. Rubin stated further that EMSA conducted an exercise in November 2001 on hazardous materials and shelter-in-place. This November's exercise will focus on a radiological scenario with shelter-in-place. One of the recommendations from the SSCOT subcommittee on public health was to update the medical management protocols. After further study, it was decided to update the medical management protocols by adoption of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASDTR) *Medical Management Guidelines*.

Other issues noted by local agencies were that staffing was stretched to the maximum; the federal and state governments should consider earmarking some of the funding toward labor; long-term emergencies impact other smaller programs and concerns with mass decontamination capabilities.

Chair Ghilarducci noted that OES released guidelines on anthrax and is debating mass decontamination mutual aid in the state.

6. **SERC Involvement in Post 9/11 Activities – Open Discussion**

There was no comment on this agenda item.

7. **New Business**

“How to Achieve a Balance with Chemical Specific Information and Community Right-to-Know” to be added to the next agenda (request by Steve Tsumura on behalf of Christine Boyd).

8. **Public Comment**

Mike Ardito, USEPA, Region 9, directed attendees to the *U.S. EPA Update for California SERC* (see **Exhibit 3**) and FEMA Director’s Speeches (see **Exhibit 4**).

9. **Future Meeting Date**

The potential date of July 10, 2002, was discussed. Since this date was in conflict with another meeting, the date was changed to July 17, 2002.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

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Deni Gray, Staff Services Analyst